

## **Baltimore Business Journal**

### **Crystal Cruises returns to Baltimore for third year**

By Sarah Meehan Feb 12, 2015, 2:04pm EST

Crystal Cruises will return to Baltimore to whisk passengers away on another Caribbean cruise.

The luxury cruise line is returning to Baltimore for a third consecutive year. The 11-day cruise will depart Nov. 2 from Baltimore, stop in Charleston, S.C., and Jackson, Fla.; make several stops in the Caribbean including Grand Turk and Aruba; and wrap up in Miami.

Passengers will cruise aboard the newly remodeled Crystal Symphony ship, which has room for 922 passengers. A recent \$20 million renovation updated the ship's fitness center, lounge and club; installed a Wimbledon tennis court and revamped its Avenue Saloon.

"We're excited to showcase our newly re-designed Crystal Symphony to the mid-Atlantic region when we return to the Port of Baltimore this fall," Crystal President Edie Rodriguez said.

"Baltimore is a great market for us and we're excited to offer the world's most luxurious cruise experience to guests who want to minimize their air travel and start their Crystal experience as quickly as possible."

Rates start at \$4,290 per person.

Crystal Cruises offered a similar trip in November 2014.

The cruise line is owned by the Tokyo-based shipping company Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

## **Cruise Industry News**

### **Crystal Symphony Coming to Maryland this November**

13 February 2015.

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) has announced that Crystal Cruises will return to the Port of Baltimore later this year. The Crystal Symphony will sail an 11-day cruise from the port, with calls in Charleston, Jacksonville, the Caribbean and ending the cruise in Miami.

"I'm delighted to hear Crystal Cruises' decision to return to the Port of Baltimore," said Governor Larry Hogan. "The Port of Baltimore is located within one of the largest and wealthiest consumer markets in the country. The cruise terminal's ideal location right off Interstate 95 makes it an easy drive for anybody coming here from neighboring states to our north, south and west."

"We're excited to showcase our newly re-designed Crystal Symphony to the mid-Atlantic region when we return to the Port of Baltimore this fall," noted Edie Rodriguez, Crystal's president. "Baltimore is a great market for us and we're excited to offer the world's most

luxurious cruise experience to guests who want to minimize their air travel and start their Crystal experience as quickly as possible.”

In 2014, almost 200,000 passengers sailed on 89 cruises from the Port of Baltimore.

## **The Baltimore Sun Crystal Symphony to sail from Baltimore in November**

Crystal Cruises will offer a one-time, 11-day cruise from Baltimore to Miami aboard the Crystal Symphony in November.

It's the third year in a row the luxury cruise liner has sailed from Baltimore as it travels around the world.

The 922-passenger ship emerged from a \$20 million redesign in a German shipyard in September that renovated lounges, the casino, spas and the fitness center, and added hypoallergenic staterooms.

The cruise from Baltimore, dubbed "Colonial Coast & Beyond," will call in Charleston and Jacksonville, before continuing to the Caribbean with stops in Grand Turk, Curacao and Aruba. All-inclusive fares start at \$4,290 per person, according to Crystal Cruises' website.

In 2014, nearly 200,000 passengers sailed on 89 cruises from the port of Baltimore, sustaining about 500 jobs in the state. The Port of Baltimore ranks fifth for cruise passengers among East Coast cruise ports.